Speech

1. Honour to accept — privilege of knowing Imre L.
2. Philosophy under attack, recognition by this award
3. Philosophy no immediate practical application
4. But satisfies distinctively human characteristic to ask awkward questions etc
5. Science amongst highest intellectual achievements
6. Deserves respected place in Universities
7. Award marks coming of age
8. Worthwhile research this side of the Atlantic
9. How to spend prize — Trust Fund in Cambridge
10. Thanks for attending lecture.
11. future ceremonies — [illegible] future developments in the subject
12. Honour memory & achievements of Imre Lakatos

Receipt of Lakatos Award

It is a great pleasure and indeed a deeply appreciated honour for me to accept the Lakatos Award in Philosophy of Science.*

Philosophy in this country is currently under attack. It is therefore all the more valuable, to see recognition of research in this esoteric discipline, through the generosity of the Latsis Foundation

But I make no excuses, in defending the importance of philosophy ~~that~~ for the fact that it lacks immediate and practical application. To me philosophy satisfies that most ~~characteristic~~ distinctively human characteristic, to challenge received wisdom with persistent whys and wherefores which leads one to rummage around in the basement of other people's activities, to ask awkward questions and even perhaps on occasions to provide answers

Science is, I believe, amongst our greatest intellectual achievements, and surely the philosophical meta-study of that discipline deserves a permanent and respected place in our universities.

The Lakatos Award seems to me to mark the coming of age of this particular branch of philosophy, and I am delighted that it has now come to England, which may help to correct the impression that all the worthwhile philosophy is now done on the other side of the Alantic!

You may wonder how I intend to spend the prize. My family already had it all worked out. But I am afraid we will not immediately be visiting Disney Land, Australia or going on Safari! In fact, I plan to use the prize to set up a Trust Fund in Cambridge which will be used to encourage research students in the subject.

I thank you all for coming to listen to my lecture, and look forward myself to attending future Lakatos Award ceremonies, not indeed as recipient, but as one eager to learn what the future has in store for the subject, and to celebrate the memory of Imre Lakatos and his great contributions to philosophy of science

I had the privilege of knowing Imre Lakatos during the last years of his life, # ~~and~~ As Editor of the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, he published my own very first research in the subject, a paper on the foundations of statistics.

He was a wonderful man, whose own enthusiasm for philosophy inspired students and colleagues alike.

* You may wonder ~~what~~ how I intend to spend the prize. My family already have it all worked out. But I am afraid we will not immediately be revisiting Disney Land, Australia or going on safari. In fact ~~you~~ I plan to use the prize to set up a ~~small~~ Trust Fund in Cambridge, which will be used to encourage research students in the subject.